Serial No.: 09/831,596 -9 - Art Unit: 2644

Conf. No.: 7171

REMARKS

Claims 15-44 had been presented for examination. Of these, 15, 21, 41 and 42 were rejected but only an objection was lodged against claims 16-20 and 22-26. In response, Applicant cancels claims 15-26 as well as 41 and 42, and substitutes new claims 45-54.

New claim 45 corresponds to allowable claim 16 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 46 corresponds to allowable claim 17 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 47 corresponds to allowable claim 18 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 48 corresponds to allowable claim 19 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 49 corresponds to allowable claim 20 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 50 corresponds to allowable claim 22 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 51 corresponds to allowable claim 23 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 52 corresponds to allowable claim 24 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 53 corresponds to allowable claim 25 rewritten in independent form.

New claim 54 corresponds to allowable claim 26 rewritten in independent form.

Accordingly, the new claims are all allowable in light of the statement that claims 16-20 and 22-26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has therefore cancelled all rejected claims and rewritten the "objected to" claims independently. All claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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